Course Name: **Riding the Elephant: An Introduction to the History and Culture of India**

Course Numbers: **IDS 297, UHC 350, REL 397, HRA 497**

Credit Hours: **3** undergraduate

**Course Overview & Objectives:**

Since liberalizing its economy, India has grown at a fast pace. Today, modern India stands in stark contrast with the old India. Thus, the objective of this course is to introduce the student to modern India with all its contradictions. It will explore India’s history, religion and culture. We will also visit a K-12 school to understand the educational challenges that Indian children face. The course has a significant travel component.

The group will visit the country’s capital, New Delhi, the historical town of Durgapur, the commercial metropolis of Kolkata, the industrial township of Durgapur, and the university town of Santiniketan. In each city, students will have the opportunity to meet with local community leaders, business people, educators, and students as well as attending lectures by local experts. We’ll also tour a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites like the Taj Mahal, museums, palaces, monuments, temples, mosques, and other architectural and archaeological sites.

**Program Fee: $3,590**

**Program Fee Includes:** Round-trip airfare, transportation in India, and one meal per day. Study Away student fee and basic medical insurance; separated costs not available.

**Program Fee Excludes:** Passport, ground transportation in Springfield, most meals, Visa fees, ground transportation for personal excursions, incidentals/misc personal expenses, and souvenirs. $612 MSU tuition for 3 hours of undergraduate credit. Both Missouri residents and non-residents pay the Mo. resident per-credit-hour tuition rate, per University policy.

**Online applications are due by February 27, 2015.** A nonrefundable deposit of $540 will be billed to your student account. To apply, please:

- Visit the Study Away website at [international.missouristate.edu/studyaway/](http://international.missouristate.edu/studyaway/)
- Choose Apply Now
- Search for a Program (under Apply for a Study Away Program)
- Choose Simple Search
- Type India under Program Name
- Choose Riding the Elephant: An Introduction to the History and Culture of India
- Choose Apply Now

**Scholarship Eligibility & Financial Aid**

Students may apply for the College of Natural and Applied Sciences Study Away scholarship. Applications are due to the Study Away office by April 10, 2015. Please see the scholarship page on the Study Away website. Additionally, students who receive financial aid may apply aid to this program. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 836-5262 for more information.

**Interested in going?**  
Contact the Program Director,  
**Dr. Saibal Mitra**  
Professor, Department of Physics, Astronomy & Materials Science  
(417) 836-8989  
SaibalMitra@MissouriState.edu
Course Schedule & Itinerary

COURSE OUTLINE
The class will meet for lectures and group discussion during the Spring 2015 semester. Dates and times of these meetings will be announced later. Additional lectures will be arranged in India and will be given by local experts.

PRE-TRAVEL CLASS MEETINGS
All pre-travel lectures will be presented in Springfield.

Lecture 1: Introduction to India - its history, culture, and politics.
Lecture 2: Introduction of India (continued).
Lecture 3: Travel orientation meeting (what to expect in India).
Lecture 4: Religious diversity of India.
Lecture 5: K-12 education in India.
Lecture 6: Group Discussion. This discussion will be held over lunch at a local Indian restaurant. Students pay for their lunch.
Lecture 7: Final orientation meeting before travel.

STUDY TOUR
July 2, 2015 Depart for New Delhi, India.
July 3, 2015 Travel.
July 4, 2015 Arrive in New Delhi.
July 5, 2015 Visit India Gate and Rajghat. Meet with business and/or political leaders.
July 6, 2015 Visit Bahai Temple, Qutub Minar and then go to Old Delhi to see Jama Masjid and Red Fort.
July 7, 2015 Visit Fatehpur Sikri and Agra.
July 8, 2015 Travel to Kolkata.
July 9, 2015 Visit India Museum, St. Paul’s Cathedral.
July 10, 2015 Visit a school and/or college in India. Meet with students and faculty.
July 11, 2015 Visit Jorasanko (Rabindra Nath Tagore’s house) and Marble Palace. Meet with local journalists and/or businessmen/entrepreneurs.
July 12, 2015 Leave for Durgapur.
July 14, 2015 Visit tribal school and then spend the day in Santiniketan (a leading university and center of Bengali culture).
July 15, 2015 Return to Kolkata. Explore Kolkata.
July 16, 2015 Fly back to New Delhi.
July 17, 2015 Return to the U.S.

POST-TRAVEL CLASS MEETINGS
Focus group regarding program evaluation and recommendations. Reflection on the Indian experience.

Course Credit & Requirements
Students who successfully complete this program will receive 3 hours of undergraduate credit. A letter grade will be assigned, based on the following projects:
- Paper - Before leaving for India, each student will write a brief paper on a topic to be determined in consultation with the Program Director. Topics may include India’s economy, languages, population growth, history, culture, government and politics, wildlife, etc.
- Reflection Journal & Final Paper or Presentation - Students will maintain a daily journal. At the end of the course, there will be a group discussion that will result in a brief paper or PowerPoint presentation in which students will reflect on their experience in India and the personal impact of that experience.

Required Texts: None. The Program Director will provide handouts of selected materials.

Application & Payment Procedures
Missouri State University students and others who are approved by the Program Director may apply.

MSU Students: A non-refundable deposit of $540 will be billed to your University account upon application (deadline Feb. 27, 2015). You will receive a final billing on March 27, 2015, for the balance of the program fee ($3,050). MSU course tuition ($612) will be billed to your University account separately and is due according to the university payment plan.

Visiting Students: A non-refundable deposit of $540 must be paid through the Study Away Storefront on or before Feb. 27, 2015. The balance of the program fee ($3,050) must be paid through the Study Away Storefront by March 20, 2015. MSU course tuition ($612) is also due by March 20, 2015 and must be paid at the bursar’s office or on-line through my.missouristate.edu.

In order to ensure participation in this Study Away program, each student must pay the entire program fee by June 12, 2015. Alternatively, a student may show proof of the financial aid that will pay for the fee. If a student does not pay the program fee, or does not show proof of financial aid that is sufficient to cover the fee, the student will be withdrawn from the Study Away program, dropped from the course, and his/her airline reservation will be canceled. Visiting students must also fully pay the tuition amount by June 12, 2015 in order to stay enrolled in the program. Estimated program fees are based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change. Program participants agree to a potential increase of up to 10% if rates increase before or during travel.

Cancellation & Refund Policies
- Students who withdraw prior to May 22, 2015 will receive a refund of fees paid, less the $540 deposit and any non-refundable purchases made on his/her behalf.
- If a student must withdraw after May 22, 2015 for a bona fide medical reason, s/he will receive a refund of fees paid, less the $540 deposit and non-refundable expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is required.
- Students withdrawing voluntarily after May 22, 2015 will receive no refund.
- When the program begins, no refunds will be issued under any circumstances.
- All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Program Director and the Director of Study Away Programs at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403. Non-payment of fees does not guarantee withdrawal.